

**Success:** *You've achieved success in your field when you don't know whether what you're doing is work or play.* —Warren Beatty, American actor

*As the Pacific Ocean Division bids farewell to one commander, it also welcomes another in a ceremony steeped in military tradition...*

# Change of Command



Brig. Gen. Ronald L. Johnson addresses the crowd after he accepts command of the Pacific Ocean Division. At right are Maj. Gen. Hans Van Winkle and Brig. Gen. Randal Castro.

*Right: In keeping with military tradition, Brig. Gen. Ronald L. Johnson (second from left) passes the POD colors to USACE Command. Sgt. Maj. Robert M. Dils. The passing of the colors signifies the transfer of responsibility from one commander to another.*

Brig. Gen. Ronald L. Johnson assumed command of the Pacific Ocean Division from Brig. Gen. Randal R. Castro July 31, 2001, at Shafter's Palm Circle. Maj. Gen. Hans Van Winkle, USACE Command General, was the officiating officer.

Johnson, POD's 23rd commander, comes to Hawaii from Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. where he was the Assistant Commandant of the U.S. Army. In his remarks to the attendees, Johnson said he will look after the people, customers and mission. He is accompanied by his 10-year-old son, Ian Tyler.

Castro has commanded the Division for two years. He will move off to Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. where he will fill Johnson's shoes.



**Perspective:** *The optimist sees opportunity in every danger; the pessimist sees danger in every opportunity.* —Winston Churchill, former English prime minister



*Photos by  
1st. Lt. Mark  
DeRocchi*

*Ian and Iris Johnson and Judy Castro display leis given them by the many well-wishers at the POD change of command.*

## New commander offers vast experience

Brig. Gen. Ronald L. Johnson was commissioned in the Corps of Engineers after receiving a bachelor of Science Degree from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1976. His first tour was with the 9th Engineer Battalion, Aschaffenburg, Germany, where he served as Platoon Leader, Company Executive Officer, Assistant S-4 and completed the tour as a Company Commander.

After graduating from the Armor Officer's Advanced Course in 1981, BG Johnson commanded a Recruiting Company in Atlanta and later became a Battalion Operations and Marketing Officer. In 1983, he attended the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, Georgia and earned a Masters Degree in Operations Research and Systems Analysis. From 1985 to 1988, he served at the United States Military Academy as the Course Director for Freshman Calculus, as well as an Instructor and Assistant Professor of the Department of Mathematics. From 1988 to 1990, he attended the Command and General Staff College and the School for the Advanced Military Stud-

ies (SAMS) at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Upon graduation, he was assigned to the 25th Infantry Division (Light) where he served as the Assistant Division Engineer, then

became the Executive Officer of the 65th Combat Engineer Battalion, 25th ID. From 1992 to 1994, he commanded the 14th Engineer Battalion at Fort Ord, California and Fort Lewis, Washington. Following completion of battalion command, he was a 1995 U.S. Army War College Fellow at the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies. Upon completion of his fellowship, he served as the Senior Aide de Camp to the Secretary of the Army. BG Johnson also commanded the 130th Engineer Brigade in Hanau, Germany. He served as the Executive Officer to the Secretary of the Army from September 1998 through July 1999. He assumed duties as the Assistant Commandant of the U.S.

Army Engineer School at the Maneuver Support Center in August 1999.

BG Johnson's awards include the Legion of Merit (1OLC), Meritorious Service Medal (3OLC), the Army Commendation Medal (1OLC), the Army Achievement Medal, the Army Superior Unit Award, the DeFleury Medal, the Air Assault and the Parachutist badges.



*Brig. Gen. Ronald L. Johnson*

